

Thousands of African-American men enlisted, despite widespread segregation and discrimination both in and outside of the military. From 1942 until 1949, approximately 20,000 African-American men enlisted in the Marine Corps and trained at a segregated facility, Camp Montford Point, near Jacksonville, North Carolina.

Successfully completing training was a substantial feat for these Marines. While their white counterparts may have been required to run ten miles, Montford Point recruits often had to run twenty. These challenges gave them the endurance, both physical and emotional, to serve. As Marines, they bravely fought in theatres from the Pacific to Europe.

In 1948, President Harry S. Truman ordered the desegregation of the United States Armed Forces. In 1949, recruit training at Montford Point was discontinued as all recruits, regardless of race, were sent to other integrated training facilities.

Many Montford Point Marines continued their service as Marines after the conclusion of World War II, including in both the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I honor the Montford Point Marines. Their legacy has paved the way for African-Americans to serve proudly in all branches of the United States Armed Services.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, on the Legislative Day of June 26, 2012, upon request of a leave of absence, I missed a series of votes. Had I been present for these rollcall votes, I would have voted "No" on rollcall 412—the Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule providing for consideration of H. R. 5972 and H. R. 5973; "No" on rollcall 413—H. Res. 697—Rule providing for consideration of both H. R. 5972—Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2013 and H. R. 5973—Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration Appropriations Act, 2013; "Yes" on rollcall 414—Hoyer Motion to Instruct Conferees on H. R. 4348; "No" on rollcall 415—Black Motion to Instruct Conferees on H. R. 4348; "Yes" on rollcall 416—the Connolly Amendment; "No" on rollcall 417—the McClintock Amendment; "No" on rollcall 418—the Garrett Amendment; "Yes" on rollcall 419—the Capps Amendment; "No" on rollcall 420—the Gosar Amendment; "No" on rollcall 421—the Broun Amendment #1; "No" on rollcall 422—the Broun Amendment #2; and "No" on rollcall 423—the Broun Amendment #4.

HONORING MARION MEREDITH BEAL FOR HIS SERVICE TO THIS NATION

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Ms. BASS of California. Mr. Speaker, today I honor an extraordinary individual from my

home district—Marion Meredith Beal for his receipt of the Congressional Gold Medal for his dedication and contribution to the United States Marine Corps. A seasoned leader in his community, he serves as an outstanding example to the Los Angeles area and the nation, demonstrating profound service and devotion to the betterment of his family, his community members, and his country.

Mr. Beal was born in East Texas, moved to Los Angeles in the early 1950's, and acquired his bachelor's degree at Bishop College and Master's at Pepperdine University. He served his country honorably in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1943 to 1945 being named "Honor Man" of his platoon, as he served as an original Montford Point Marine during World War II. He later established himself as Chief Clerk at the Montford Point Marine Corps headquarters serving as the only African American on his staff. Among many other notable achievements, he was also the first enlisted African American to perform duty in the U.S. Marine Corps headquarters in Washington D.C. Mr. Beal helped set the foundation for integration into the U.S.M.C. during a very crucial time for the U.S. Military.

After his service, Mr. Beal continued to demonstrate commitment to his community and country through his work with the Veteran's Administration Hospital in West Los Angeles, and his time with the Los Angeles Unified School District as Assistant Supervisor of Student Body Finance, among other positions. He also helped found the 78th Street Block Club, and the Cub Scout and Boy Scout troops in his neighborhood. Mr. Beal is devoutly dedicated to the Greater New Light Baptist Church and is passionately devoted to his family. He is a very powerful and influential role model with over 50 years of active involvement in his community and he continues to be a positive example with a caring and genuine character that has dedicated himself to the well-being and improvement of Los Angeles.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to have such an inspirational community leader like Marion Meredith Beal as a part of California's 33rd Congressional District and I congratulate him on the receipt of this award.

H.R. 2578—CONSERVATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH ACT

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 2578. This bill threatens the environmental integrity of millions of acres of federal lands, including the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and Voyageurs National Park in Minnesota. These lands are among our state's greatest treasures and must be protected and maintained for future generations. This misguided legislation is a politically-motivated assault on the environment, not a national security imperative as my Republican colleagues claim.

Instead of protecting our border and our environment, this bill, and especially the Title XIV National Security and Federal Lands Protec-

tion Act in it, causes irreparable harm to our most cherished places. It exempts the Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection, CBP, from federal environmental regulations while performing border-security operations. It blocks the Department of Interior, DOI, and Department of Agriculture, USDA, from enforcing over 30 environmental protection laws that protect our fish and wildlife, national parks, forests, and other historic places. In addition, this legislation would give CBP the authority to construct offices, roads, fences and other infrastructure within 100 miles of the U.S. border with Canada and Mexico—an area that includes at least 54 National Park System properties, 228 national wildlife refuges and 122 wilderness preserves. It undermines these essential protections based on the false premise that it is somehow impossible to secure our national borders while also protecting our national heritage.

According to Homeland Security Secretary Napolitano, this legislation is "unnecessary" and "bad policy." On July 8, 2011, the US Customs and Border Patrol, CBP, testified before Congress that, "CBP enjoys a close working relationship with the Department of Interior and Department of Agriculture that allows us to fulfill our border enforcement responsibilities while respecting and enhancing the environment." Importantly, the Border Patrol made clear in its testimony that, "Border Patrol agents have the authority at any time to conduct motorized off-road pursuit in the event of exigency/emergency involving human life, health, safety of persons within the area, or posing a threat to national security." It is clear that the federal agencies that would receive this unfettered authority don't want it, don't need it, and shouldn't have it.

In my state of Minnesota, the National Park Service; U.S. Forest Service; and the Red Lake, Grand Portage and Boise Forte Tribal Governments work cooperatively and openly with Homeland Security to minimize border issues. The National Park Service at Voyageurs National Park and Grand Portage National Monument already enjoy a good relationship with the local Border Patrol and work with them on a range of issues in a cooperative fashion. However, if Border Patrol is exempt from following existing protections, resources will be lost and tourism important to the local economy will decline.

Title XIV would also affect the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, a world-renowned area within the Superior National Forest. This legislation would allow the Border Patrol to erect roads and bridges in a sacred place where people from around the world come to enjoy Minnesota's Great Outdoors.

We must also recognize the many tribal nations on lands near Minnesota's Canadian border, including the Grand Portage Band of Chippewa, Red Lake Band of Chippewa, Boise Forte Band of Chippewa. This bill unacceptably threatens existing treaties and tribal sovereignty.

This is an unnecessary and bad bill. I oppose H.R. 2578 and urge my colleagues to do the same.